THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) to (c) Proposals have been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for taking up the following projects:-

(i) New line from Mettupalayam to Chamarajanagar via Sathyamangalam.

(ii) New line from Paramakudi to Tuticorin via Mudukulathur, Kadaladi and Sayalkudi.

Updating of the survey from Muttupalayam to Chamarajanagar via Sathyamangalam and Coimbatore has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

The cost of the proposed Paramakudi-Tuticorin (128 kms.) new railway line would be Rs. 150 crs. This project is not being considered at present because of constraint of resources.

Review of disinvestment of PSU shares

1884. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the date since Government have introduced the disinvestment programmes for the public sector units;

(b) whether Government have made any review of the results of the disinvestment programmes; and

(c) if so, to what extent the programme has proved beneficial for the PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c) The Government undertook disinvestment of PSU shares first time in December 1991 in pursuance of announcements made in the Industrial Policy" Statement of 1991 and Budget Speech of 1991. Before every tranche of disinvestment Government reviews the results of earlier tranche. The disinvestment has resulted in wider equity participation in the public sector undertakings resulting in greater accountability. Disinvestment programme of the Government also enables the PSUs to raise resources from capital markets for their expansion projects.

Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh

1885. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether second phase of construction of Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh as approved by ICMR has started; if so, by when the said construction is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons for its delay;

(b) whether the said RMRC has no residential quarter as per antitlements and its present Director is staying in a Guest House and if so, hte reasons therefor;

(c) whether ICMR proposes to construct the said Director's quarter soon and if so, by when; and

(d) the details of quests other than ICMR officials who stayed in RMRC Guest House during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The second phase of construction of RMRC, Dibrugarh has not been approved by ICMR as the laboratory space constructed under phase-I is considered sufficient for next 5 to 10 years.

(b) The Directors posted at Dibrugarh are normally entitled for type VIA quarters but have been occupying type V quarter which is the highest type available. The present Director is staying in the guest House for personal reasons.

(c) The ICMR is already considering construction of residential accommodation/additional residential accommodation at Dibrugarh and at other centres under them within the financial resources available.